

Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, CA

SUBJ: RESIGNATIONS OF DEPUTY MINISTERS AND APPOINTMENT
OF NEW EXTAFF UNDER SECRETARY

1. PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S OFFICE ANNOUNCED ON
DECEMBER 3 THE RESIGNATION OF EXTAFF UNDER SECRETARY
A. E. RITCHIE FOR HEALTH REASONS AND ON DECEMBER 4 THE
RESIGNATIONS OF FOUR OTHER DEPUTY MINISTERS; SIMON
REISMAN OF FINANCE, JAMES GRANDY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND
COMMERCE, SYDNEY WILLIAMS OF AGRICULTURE, AND HERB BALLS
OF SERVICES. THE LATTER FOUR RESIGNATIONS BECOME EFFECTIVE
DECEMBER 27, BUT ALL WILL RETAIN THEIR CURRENT POSITIONS
UNTIL MARCH 31, 1975 (END OF FY), TAKING ADVANTAGE OF NEW
CIVIL SERVICE PENSION PROVISIONS.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT WAS ALSO MADE ON DECEMBER 3 THAT
RITCHIE'S SUCCESSOR WOULD BE BASIL ROBINSON, NOW DEPUTY
MINISTERS OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND FORMERLY
A FORESIGN SERVICE OFFICER SERVING LAST IN EXTAFF AS
DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FROM 1966 TO 1970.

3. COMMENT: EXTAFF MIN TOLD CHARGE AT AIRPORT
FAREWELL CEREMONY PRIOR TRUDEAU'S DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON
TODAY THAT ROBINSON WOULD COMMENCE DUTY DECEMBER 9.

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ROBINSON IS WELL AND EXTREMELY FAVORABLY KNOWN TO

EMBASSY FOR EARLIER CAN-DO CONTRIBUTIONS TO US-CANADIAN COOPERATION. HE SERVED AT EMBASSY WASHINGTON AS MINISTER FROM 1962 TO 1964 FOLLOWING STINT AS PRIME MINISTER DIEFENBAKER'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT FROM 1957 TO 1962.

4. WIDELY CREDITED RUMOR IS THAT JAKE WARREN, CURRENTLY HIGH COMMISSION TO UK AND FORMERLY DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE, WILL REPLACE REISMAN ON APRIL 1. IT IS KNOWN THAT WHEN RELIEVED IN LONDON BY PAUL MARTIN, WARREN IS SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE FRENCH-LANGUAGE COURSE PROGRAMMED TILL END OF MARCH.

5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECEMBER 3 STATED THAT A NEW APPOINTMENT WOULD BE GIVEN RITCHIE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO TAKE EFFECT WHEN HIS HEALTH PERMITS. RITCHIE IS RECOVERING FROM A HEART ATTACK AND STROKE AND NOW IMPROVING STEADILY. JOHNSON

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